

Appl. No. : 09/574,819  
Filed : May 19, 2000

### REMARKS

Claims 27-32 are being examined in the application. Claim 27 is currently amended. No claims have been added or canceled. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

The claims are directed to an isolated DNA molecule which codes for a protein of the TGF- $\beta$  family, wherein said protein has chondrogenic activity *in vivo* and comprises a sequence WIIAPLEYEAYHCEGVCDFPLRSHLEPTNHA (SEQ ID NO:24). Support for the amendment is found throughout the specification, e.g., Examples 1-4, Figure 4, and Example 9. The claims have been amended so that they recite a functional limitation, no longer make a disclaimer in reciting a structural limitation, and avoid any previous disclosures for the following reason: to protect a consensus embodiment.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all outstanding rejections are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 4/18/03

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